

INVESTIGATION OF A HIGH REPETITION

RATE TEA-CO₂ LASER

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ABSTRACT

A high-repetition-rate (HRR) transversely excited atmospheric (TEA) CO₂ laser was designed and operated up to 300 Hz, which produced an average output power of 70 W in CO₂:N₂:He-8:8:84. This laser was driven by an air-blown two-stage spark gap and the high voltage charging unit was operated using a command charging mode controlled air-blown spark gap. A linear sliding-spark array was used as the ultraviolet preionization source for obtaining uniform laser discharge between a pair of profiled Ernst electrodes.

The laser was first investigated for the single-pulse operation and its performance was characterized with respect to the preionizer-to-main time delay, the storage capacitor voltage, and the storage capacitance. The time-delay was obtained by the controlling breakdown of the second gap in the two-stage spark gap. A minimum time-delay was usually needed for achieving stable laser output energy, which depended on the storage capacitor voltage and circuit parameters.

In the HRR operation, the laser average output power increased linearly with the operating frequency until arc discharge limit. For a given arc-free frequency, the laser average output power was independent of the gas flow velocity. The maximum frequency for arc-free discharge decreased for slower gas flow velocities, from which a clearing ratio of about 4 was obtained. This maximum frequency was, however, independent of the input energy density if it is less than 60 J//atm.

ABSTRAK

Satu laser karbon dioksida kadar ulangan tinggi ujaan melintang tekanan atmosfera telah direkabentuk dan dioperasikan sehingga 300 Hz, di mana ianya menghasilkan 70 W purata kuasa keluaran dalam $\text{CO}_2:\text{N}_2:\text{He}:8:8:84$. Laser ini telah didorongan dengan satu pencucuh celah (spark gap) berdua tingkat tiupan udara dan unit pencasan bervoltan tinggi dioperasikan dengan mod terkawal pencasan perintah (command charging) pencucuh celah tiupan udara. Satu susunterbit pencucuh meluncur linear telah digunakan sebagai punca pra pengionan cahaya ultra lembayung untuk mendapatkan discas laser yang seragam di antara sepasang elektrod terprofil Ernst.

Laser itu diselidikkan dahulu dengan operasi denyutan tunggal and perlaksanaannya dicirikan berhubung dengan masa tunda pengion ke discas utama, voltan kapasitor storan, dan keapsitans storan. Masa tunda itu didapatkan dengan pengawalan pecah tebat oleh celah kedua bagi pencucuh celah berdua tingkat itu. Satu masa tunda minimum adalah diperlukan untuk mencapaikan tenaga keluaran laser yang stabil, di mana ianya bergantung kepada voltan kapasitor storan dan parameter-parameter litar.

Dalam operasi kadar ulangan tinggi, purata kuasa keluaran laser itu bertambah secara linear dengan frekuensi operasi sehingga had discas arka (arc discharge). Bagi frekuensi tanpa arka yang tertentu, purata kuasa keluaran laser itu tidak bergantung kepada kelajuan aliran gas. Frekuensi maksimum bagi discas tanpa arka berkurang dengan kelajuan aliran gas yang lebih perlahan, di mana nisbah bersihan yang lebih kurang 4 telah didapati. Walaupun demikian, frekuensi maksimum ini adalah tidak bergantung kepada kepadatan tenaga masukan jika ianya adalah kurang daripada 60 J//atm.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
CONTENTS	v
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Brief Description of the HRR TEA CO ₂ Laser	2
1.2 Choice of Circuit Elements for the HRR TEA CO ₂ Laser	4
1.3 Objectives of this Project	6
1.4 Outline of this Thesis	6
CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF HRR TEA CO₂ LASERS	7
2.1 Review of HRR TEA CO ₂ Lasers and Excitation Circuits	7
2.1.1 Laser Performance	7
2.1.2 Excitation Circuits and Preionizers	10
2.1.3 Laser Chamber Designs	15
2.2 The Kinetic Processes in TEA CO ₂ Laser	16
2.2.1 Vibrational States and Energy Levels	17
2.2.2 Upper Laser Level Excitation Mechanism	19
2.2.3 Laser Levels Relaxation Mechanism	20
2.3 Glow Discharge Formation and Instabilities	23
2.3.1 Effect of Preionization on Glow Discharge Formation	23

2.3.2	Energy Input Period and Instabilities	245
2.4	The E/N and Excitation Efficiency	29
2.5	Population Saturation in TEA CO ₂ Laser	31
2.6	Frequency Limitations in HRR TEA CO ₂ Laser	32
2.6.1	General HRR Characteristics	33
2.6.2	Effect of Boundary Layers	36
2.6.3	Effects of Adiabatic Expansion and Heat Conduction	37
2.6.4	Effects of Shock Waves and Acoustic Waves	40
2.7	Gas Degradation in HRR TEA CO ₂ Laser	41
2.7.1	Dissociation and Reformation Reactions	42
2.7.2	Effects of Gas Mixture Degradation	44
2.7.3	Electrical Parameters Effects on Gas Mixture Degradation	46
CHAPTER 3	DESIGNS AND MEASUREMENTS	47
3.1	The Laser Chamber	47
3.2	The Chilled Water Unit	50
3.3	Fan Array and Gas Flow Velocities	53
3.4	Profiled Electrode and Preionizer	56
3.5	Overview of the Electrical Circuit	59
3.6	High-Voltage Power Supply and Protection	60
3.7	555 Timer and SCR Circuits	61
3.8	The High-Voltage Circuit	66
3.8.1	Spark Gaps Design	69
3.8.2	Low-Pass Filter and Pulse Transformers	69

3.8.3	Steep-Triggering Circuit	72
3.8.4	Suppression of Electrical Oscillations	74
3.8.5	Spark Gaps Performances	76
CHAPTER 4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	81
4.1	Single-Pulse Optimization	81
4.1.1	Laser Beam Characteristics	81
4.1.2	Effects of Time Delay	83
4.1.3	Effect of Preionzer Storage and Main Peaking Capacitances	88
4.1.4	Output Energies and Efficiencies	90
4.2	HRR Operation	97
CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSIONS	101
5.1	Summary of Operational Characteristics	101
5.2	Some Comparisons With Other Reported Systems	102
5.3	Suggestions for Future Work	103
5.4	Conclusions	104
REFERENCES		105